



UK Health
Security
Agency

By email

Our ref: 06/08/25/JS/312

16 September 2025

Dear David Osborn,

Re: ICO Case Reference: IC-351144-L9X3

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) sent a decision notice to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on 6 August 2025 relating to the below complaint.

Case Reference: IC-351144-L9X3

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Complainant's name: David Osborn Complainant's email address: david.osborn@tridenthse.co.uk

3) Relating to the PHE) at this link.[website redacted] The email is missing which sent this on to other parties. This falls within the scope of my Fol request and it is important to understand what was subsequently done with this proposal document (i.e. to whom it was sent, and when). Please would you forward the email(s) which sent it on to (for instance) the Chair of the IPC Cell, maybe all IPC members, and the person in DHSC who was referring to it in the email they sent on 23 December 16:50 which can be found in this thread:

[website redacted]

20) The Commissioner requires UKHSA to conduct a fresh search for the requested information, which the complainant has referred to at point three.

36) The Commissioner now requires UKHSA to disclose the information which he has outlined within a separate confidential annex.

Response

In response to 3) and 20), as requested UKHSA has conducted a fresh search of the author of the proposal's email account, the relevant Clinical Guidance Cell account, and the relevant messages sent from the senior UKHSA official who took over discussions from the author of the proposal during a period of 5 working days annual leave. During the period of annual leave, the senior UKHSA official had amended the proposal and took this to senior management review. Approval of this revised approach resulted in the development of the Respiratory Evidence Panel ([The role of face coverings in mitigating the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 virus: statement from the Respiratory Evidence Panel \(2021\) - GOV.UK](#))

However, it is important to note that this did not result in the proposal referred to above being directly sent back by email to the NHS IPC Cell as described in 3). Our fresh searches have therefore not located an email to the NHS IPC Cell as described in 3).

In response to 36), please see attached the requested information the Commissioner outlined in the attached confidential annex.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to the Information Rights Team by emailing InformationRights@UKHSA.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Team